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INFORMATION ON PEKING UNIVERSITY IN COMMUNIST CHINA

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FOREWORD

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INFORMATION ON PEKING UNIVERSITY IN COMMUNIST CHINA

[Following are translations of two unsigned articles in
Kuang-ming Jih-pao, Peiping, 18 September 1959, page 2.]

The Instructors and Students of Peking University Are Enthusiastic for Labor Lessons

Since the beginning of the new school year, the 10,000 instructors and students of Peking University, under the encouragement of the militant appeal of the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Congress, while actively carrying on teaching and scientific research, have been earnestly and actively taking labor lessons in accordance with the regulations of the education plan.

The revised education plan of Peking University stipulates that productive labor is a formal required course. Each school year the students of the various departments in the entire university must perform two months (eight weeks) of productive labor. At present, the various departments of the entire university, on the one hand, based on the needs of the labor lessons required by the education plan, are organizing the students to participate in productive labor. On the other hand, they are arranging the laboring time and the places of labor for the whole school year.

The students of the four departments of Chinese, History, Law, and Philosophy have already taken one week of labor lessons. Some have joined the beautification works on the West Hills, some have joined the peasants of the Ssu-chi-ching and the Tung-sheng People's Communes to help the peasants raise vegetables, some have gone to work in the Peking University Animal Farm in T'ung-chou, and some have participated in the capital construction on campus to beautify the campus. The students of the Science Department are taking turns working in the Electronic Wireless Plant, Physics Laboratory, Chemical Plant, and the Biochemical Laboratory on the campus.

Since the practice of revolutionary education last year, the instructors and students of Peking University have profoundly realized the correctness and the far-reaching meaning of the Party's policy of coordinating education and productive labor. During the last school year, the more than 8,000 students of Peking University attained a total of 519,000 working days in productive labor, including working in the plants on the campus, welfare work within the university, or going to work in the rural areas and in the factories and in social welfare work.

Because this work had been emphasized by the leaders and was properly arranged, the students had a very clear purpose in joining the labor; thus, organizing the students to participate in productive labor has had a promoting effect on political ideological education and on teaching and scientific research. For instance, in their recent learning of the documents adopted by the Eighth Party Congress, those students who had participated in the struggle to harvest the wheat crop and in the struggle against the floods have a deeper understanding of the superiorities of the people's communes. Those students who had participated in the great steel smelting movement can make a correct estimation of the function of the "small native group."

Further, the zoology students in the Biology Department were only able to dissect ready-made specimens in the laboratory in the past, but now, after having participated in the pig and duck raising work, they not only know how to feed and control, but also know how to hatch eggs and fatten animals and fowl. Not only do they know how to dissect, but they also know how to cure diseases among pigs. In the past, the students of the Physics Department, when studying the semi-conductors in class, knew only the general principle of the diode and triode, but they did not know what they looked like. Since the Physics Laboratory has established the semi-conductor workshop, the instructors and students of this department produce them personally. This not only enables them to know the related theories thoroughly, but also enables them to attain very rich practical knowledge. The students of the various departments have personally realized the merits of participating in productive labor, so as soon as the new school year had begun, they were full of enthusiasm and have been actively participating in productive labor.

During this school year Peking University has continued to adopt the "walking on two legs" policy in the arrangement of productive labor. That is to say, on the one hand, the university is operating its own plants and organizing social work on the campus (as the participating in the work on the animal farm and in the work of capital construction); on the other hand, it is organizing the students to go to the rural areas and to the factories. Based on the experiences of the last school year, the students who regularly participate in the various types of labor in the university have a great advantage in reforming their ideology, coordinating teaching and scientific research, holding fast to technology, and increasing physical strength. But at the same time, the students must be organized to go out of the university to eat, to live, and to labor with the masses of workers and peasants. This will have a more obvious effect on the students' ideological reform.

Accordingly, when the time for productive labor for this school year was arranged, this university made an over-all arrangement for labor within the school and for labor outside the campus. In organizing off-campus labor, it took notice of the keypoints of the Letters and Arts Department and the Science Department so that consideration would be given to both. Students of the Science Department principally participated in the productive labor in the factories and the mines, but there are some

who also participated in agricultural labor. Although students of the Letters and Arts Department principally participated in agricultural productive labor, some also participated in industrial labor.

In order to arrange better places for work, besides making regular connections with certain factories and people's communes, Peking University utilized the summer vacation to adjust and consolidate the factories on the campus. It carried out a series of studies concerning such problems as the direction of the factories' development, their size, the amount of investment, economic calculation, technical strength, and the source of raw materials. It also made reasonable arrangements so that the school-operated plants would be able to organize the students better to participate in productive labor and to exert a better effect as a service to teaching and scientific research.

SOME UNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING SCHOOL-OPERATED FACTORIES

Beginning in June of last year until now, Peking University has operated factories for more than a year. During this year, under the brilliance of the Party's socialist construction general line and under the guidance of the University Party Committee, because of the hard work of the instructors and students of the entire university and the great support from the various units outside the university, with the spirit of building from nothing, Peking University has established factories which have gradually grown up. In the latter part of last year, the total production value reached 1,500,000 yuan. Economically, most of the factories were able to be responsible for their own profits and losses. In the aspect of operation and control, these factories have gradually become normal. Especially when the university implements the policy of "coordinating teaching with productive labor," the school-operated factories have created obvious effects. They have become an important basis for the university's instructors and students to carry on teaching, scientific research, and productive labor.

Peking University now operates eight factories. Besides the original instrument factory and the printing plant, the other six factories were newly built last year. They are the Physics Laboratory, the Electronic Wireless Plant, the Bio-chemical Laboratory, the Nuclear Physics Instrument Plant, the Power Machinery Plant, and the Chemical Plant. These factories are under the guidance of the related departments. Some of them are operated by the university while others are jointly operated by the university and some outside units. Some of the factories' products are being supplied to the university for its use and others are meeting the needs of the State's construction.

During the last school year the students of the entire university performed 178,000 work days in these factories. In their labor they experimented with the production of many new products. Some of these departments have coordinated the production of the factories with the conducting of exhibitions of scientific research and the carrying out of on-the-spot teaching, which has an active effect on the raising of teaching

quality and the scientific level. In laboring, the students have attained an all-out development in the three phases of virtue, knowledge, and physical character.

After having participated in the works of making fragrant bean extract, the students of the Chemistry Department understood the importance of organic reaction -- the "Fu-shih" reaction and the "P'u-erh-chin" reaction -- and how they are summarized from actual practice and applied to production practice. This not only has increased their interest in studying their lessons, but has also given them a further understanding of the importance of the relation between theory and practice.

The students of junior standing specializing in botany physiology in the Biology Department, after participating in the production of ATP, attained a direct understanding of the process of quantity change to quality change. Thus, they understand the materialist dialectic method more clearly. Those students who have joined in the labor of the analytic station in the chemical factory, because of their acceptance of the production task from the State, have felt that their own learning and work are closely related to the Fatherland's socialist construction so they consolidated more on their professional ideology and strengthened their learning energy. After participating in factory work, the students of the Wireless Electronics Department attained a very great elevation from the laboring attitude of the laboring comrades and studied the practice more modestly. All these results have explained the victory of the Party's education policy.

The school-operated factory is a new enterprise. In many aspects it has many special problems which do not exist in the factories outside the campus. These problems must undergo constant seeking and research in order to attain their solution. We must regularly summarize our experiences and constantly improve our work. In the summer vacation this year, the Party Committee used the "fixed form" as the main topic and carried out an adjustment and consolidation of the work for the school-operated factories.

The Party Committee has made the following stipulations for the school-operated factories in Peking University. School-operated factories must implement the Party's education policy in which education must serve the proletarian politics and must coordinate with productive labor to train a number of workers who must have a socialist awareness and culture. The factories operated by the various departments must arrange their production principally in accordance with the needs of teaching and scientific research. But at the same time, they must shoulder a certain portion of the State's production task. In this "fixed form" labor movement, based on the needs of teaching and scientific research and on objective conditions, the university decides the type of the factories, their scope, and based on the spirit of increased production and economy, it energetically improves its factory control and strengthens economic calculation so that the more favored factories will gradually become economically responsible for their own profits and losses.

What Kind of Factories Must the University Operate?

In working, we stress the study of the following several problems. What kind of factories must the university operate? Based on the policy adopted by the Party Committee for the operation of factories, we realize that we must operate the following two types of factories: one type is that which must be operated by the university administration as a service factory, such as the instrument plant and the printing plant. These plants principally satisfy the needs of the work in the various phases of the university, especially the needs of teaching and scientific research. Generally, these plants are not prepared to arrange for the participation of work by the students. The other type is the factory operated by the Science Department. Its purpose is to coordinate the needs of teaching with those of scientific research, to carry out experiments on new products, and to organize small-scale production. It also correlates with certain scientific research activities. This factory must organize the students to participate in its production. It must be supported by and cooperate with the teaching and research units.

We have decided that the above two types of factories are the direction of operating factories. As for those factories that are already in operation, we have made an all-out study of their equipment, the supply of raw materials, the sale of products, technical force, manpower, financial strength, and other factors. We make considerations on the two phases of needs and possibilities. As for those factories or workshops which have such needs but do not possess the objective conditions, we must actively create the required conditions and then operate again. As for those factories and workshops that possess the conditions, especially when they are guaranteed with a source of raw materials and are closely coordinated with teaching and scientific research, we must concentrate our strength to operate them well.

How Large A Factory Should the University Operate?

Speaking from the standpoint of the existing conditions in Peking University, the self-operated factory should not be too large, but it should be principally on a medium or small scale. In this manner the spirit of using teaching as the principal factor must be well implemented and the leading strength will not be scattered. At the same time, the problems of materials and techniques related to the operation of factories can be solved more easily.

Do the School-Operated Factories Need Specialized Workers?

In order to arrange the students to participate in labor better and to enable the factories to become more consolidated and elevated, we believe that we must possess a certain number of specialized workers and control cadres. We realize that these specialized workers have the

following functions: 1. The specialized workers may use their active actions to influence the students as models for the students to study the proletarian character. 2. They should give technical guidance and lead the students in labor. 3. When there are no students participating in labor and also during the summer vacation, they must maintain production in factories, stabilize and raise product quality, and make preparations for the students to participate in production labor. 4. They should do the more complicated technical work which the students cannot perform well.

How Should the Students Who Participate in Productive Labor Be Rotated for Work?

We believe that the students who participate in productive labor should not be rotated too frequently. For instance, if their labor is rotated one day or half a day per week, this method would have more harm than advantage to both studying and production. Now, in Peking University, the students working in the factory generally are rotated once every two weeks.

How Can Factory Control Be Strengthened?

We have realized that in order to strengthen the factory control work, we must first regularly hold fast to the implementation of the school's policy for the operation of factories. Next, we must hold fast to the factories' production plan and their economic calculation. The cadres in our factories are still not very familiar with the operation of factories because they still have the atmosphere of a "scholar becoming a housekeeper." Though the school-operated factories are for the implementation of the Party's education policy and not for profit, it is only when these factories can be responsible for their own profits and losses that they can continue to be operated for a long time, and only then can there be a future for them.

At present, our school-operated factories have become more consolidated. The workers in the various factories and all the students who participate in productive labor are just using their sky-high morale to respond actively to the great appeal issued by the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Eighth Party Congress, and are launching the increased production economy movement with outstanding accomplishments to welcome the arrival of the great Tenth Anniversary of the National Holiday.